

**CITY OF FITCHBURG
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2018**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tracey Sarefield, Chair, Bryan Breau, John Cordio, Mike Donnelly, Harry Karis, David Streb (6)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Mike O'Hara

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:02 at Fitchburg Municipal Airport, 567 Crawford St., Administration Building, Room 106.

Ms. Sarefield read an introduction stating the mission statement of the Commission, and the role & responsibilities of the Conservation Commission and the eight interests of the Wetlands Protection Act.

MINUTES

Minutes of the April meeting not ready yet.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Request for Determination of Applicability - Fitchburg DPW, replacement Salt Shed in Riverfront Area & floodplain, 301 Broad St.

Nick Erickson, DPW-Engineering presented plan. Existing salt shed had been in disrepair for years & was recently demolished. A 40' x 96' timber-framed replacement building is proposed to be built on approx. the same footprint. There is an Activity & Use Limitation (AUL) on most of DPW's 301 Broad St. DPW site; the location of the building was shifted 15 feet to get it out of the AUL.

Excavation & dewatering will be done under the supervision of an LSP. Bill Kuriger has prepared a Health & Safety plan for during construction.

Design plans are at 90% in case there are any modifications the Commission wants. There will be inlet protection at the catchbasins. An existing catchbasin and drain line will need to be relocated.

They expect to go out to bid in July.

No public comment. Hearing closed.

Motion made & seconded to issue a Negative Determination. Vote in favor.

Request for Determination of Applicability - Fitchburg DPW, repair Oak Hill Road bridge over Nashua R.

Scott Brusco, Weston & Sampson presented plan. After bridge inspection several years ago, MassDOT placed restrictions on the bridge, narrowing the travel lanes to reduce stress on the compromised beams. Beams on one side were repaired a couple years ago. Now, compromised beams #1-7 on the northern (River St.) end will be strengthened by bolting on angle brackets. They expect that this will extend the life of the bridge by 10-15 years.

They will be hanging scaffolding from bridge and work underneath it; no need to erect staging in riverbed. Netting will be hung on underside of bridge & booms across river to prevent any materials from getting into the river. Work will take place during low water conditions. Bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic during construction.

No public comment. Hearing closed.

Motion made & seconded to issue a Negative Determination. Vote 6-0 in favor.

Scott estimates that work will take about two weeks to complete.

Request for Determination of Applicability - Fitchburg DPW, bridge repair, Ashburnham St. bridge over unnamed brook (near McIntire Rd.)

Scott Brusco, Weston & Sampson presented plan. Repair involves full replacement of northerly portion of Bridge Deck. Headwall on southerly end will be extended. Road will be temporarily widened on north side during construction

Filter tubes shown on plan for erosion controls. Full depth pavement reconstruction. New guardrail. Weston & Sampson's submitted plan shown tree on northern edge of bridge to be removed, but it was determined that they don't need to. During construction there will be netting underneath bridge.

No public comment. Hearing closed.

Motion made & seconded to issue a Negative Determination. Vote 6-0 in favor.

Notice of Intent - Garden Remedies, Inc., 307 Airport Rd., stumping, grubbing & installing crushed stone in 100-year floodplain & Riverfront Area

Hearing opened. Pat McCarty, McCarty Engineering presented plan. Proposal is to clean up, remove fallen trees & brush from the area behind the existing building, and grade & install crushed stone. Area may be used for vehicular access and potential future greenhouses. A portion of the work area site is in the 100-year floodplain and Riverfront Area.

No public comment. Hearing closed.

Motion made & seconded to issue Order of Conditions with standard conditions. Vote 6-0 in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Informal Fitchburg Trails Group presentation

Ralph Baker in to provide Commission an update of the work of the Trails Visioning Group that has been doing for the past 1½ years. Goal is to assess, map and describe City's non-motorized recreational trails. A draft tri-fold trails map & brochure was reviewed by the Commission. Their website will be active soon. Supplementary detailed maps and descriptions will be available online. Ralph welcomed ideas for additional trail connections. Mike Hurley suggested showing trail about Moran playground & McTaggart's pond. The Commission thanked Ralph for his efforts.

Access to Rollstone Hill trails via Quarry Lane?

Anna Wilkins, Exec. Director, No. County Land Trust in to discuss a vacant 1.5 ac. parcel in the Quarry Lane subdivision that abuts Conservation Commission parcels on Rollstone Hill. She has discussed w/ the owner (Bob Donell) possible acquiring it and using for access to trails on Rollstone Hill and a nature playground located behind the Busy Bee Day Care. Would the Commission support the idea?

It would be a safer access to Rollstone Hill than an existing access on the heavily-travelled Pratt Rd. which has no sidewalks. There may be room for a couple of parking spaces on parcel.

Discussion to be continued at next meeting.

McTaggart's Pond & Dam

Nick Erickson, DPW updated Commission on the state's recent release of \$375,000 funds from a bond bill to repair or demolish the dam at McTaggart's Pond. DPW is waiting on consultant's plan showing a way to prevent seepage under the dam at the toe of the slope.

Recently DPW cut into the 42-inch pipe leading from dam to allow quicker passage of water.

Commission raised issue of invasives getting into the drained area of pond and how to prevent that

Mike Hurley read letter he had submitted supporting repairing the dam & keeping pond.

Ralph Baker supports dam removal, would help cold water fisheries. MRWA has a policy on Dam Removal. He'll try to obtain.

Tracey reminded everyone that the Commission is not a policy-making body but a regulatory body.

Mike D: The question is what is the greater public good. The Commission will be regulating the project whether the dam goes or stays.

Certificates of Compliance

NexAmp, Ashby St. Rd. solar array (2)

NexAmp has submitted request to close out #155-643 & -644. Tim & Mike D. have walked the site several times w/ NexAmp and & Beals & Thomas. The wetlands restoration area has become well-established. There is an area of erosion control barriers that still needs to be removed.

Motion made & seconded to sign two Certificates of Compliance, but hold onto the Certificates until proof that the erosion controls have been removed has been supplied. Vote in favor.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting: 6/26/18

Minutes approved: 6/26/18